



Creature is a children's theatre work based on Ethel C. Pedley's iconic 1899 Australian classic *Dot and the Kangaroo*. Creature is presented in two parts: a 45-minute stage play and an interactive video installation/play space. The stage play is performed with breathtaking aerial acrobatics, accompanied by a stunning 3-D projection design. It features song and text that has been adapted by one of Australian leading playwrights, John Romeril. The play space immerses children in the Australian bush, inviting them to gain a new appreciation for its animals, plants, and the planet earth.

Audience: Suitable for All Ages- but targeted at 5-8 Years.

Genre: Physical Theatre, Children, New Technology

Premiere Season 21-28 June 2016-Lyric Theatre QPAC

First commissioned by QPAC for the 2016 Out of the Box Festival for Children 8 years and under.

*"Apparently this is theatre for children aged 5 to 8. That seems so unfair. This is so stunningly beautiful and touching "children" of all ages should come away with a smile."*  
Susan Hetherington, ABC.

An adaptation of the 1899 Australian classic “Dot and the Kangaroo” written by Ethel C. Pedley, 5-year-old Dot is lost in the bush and is rescued by a mother kangaroo. The kangaroo gives Dot magical “berries of understanding,” making it possible for Dot to comprehend the language of all the animals and insects around her. Dot and the mother kangaroo set out on an action-packed, four-day journey to return Dot to her human mother. Dot’s experience with the mother kangaroo and her time in the Australian bush, changes the way she will view the bush forever.

Through Creature’s stage place and the play space, audiences experience the Australia’s indigenous flora and fauna, seeing a myriad of creatures in their natural habitat. Audiences get to explore the quirky characteristics of nature amidst the beauty and fragility of the Australian bush. But how long before this unique native wildlife disappears as we humans encroach on their habitat and push them off the land? Creature invites you to enter the magical world of the Australian bush to explore how our actions affect the animals, plants, and the planet earth.



*“To the children of Australia, in the hope of enlisting their sympathies for the many beautiful, amiable and frolicsome creatures of their fair land, whose extinction, through ruthless destruction, whose extinction, through ruthless destruction, is being surely accomplished.”*

Ethel C. Pedley

## Creative Team

Co Directors- David Clarkson and Cristabel Sved

Writer- John Romeril

Composer- Peter Kennard

Choreography- Dean Walsh

Digital Designers- Andrew Bluff, Boris Bagattini, Andrew Johnston

Costume Design- Annemarie Dalzeil

Lighting Design- Ross Graham

Concept : Margie Breen and David Clarkson

Dramaturgy: Margie Breen



## Supporters of Creature



**BUNDANON TRUST**

## Supporters of Stalker Theatre



## DIRECTOR'S QUOTE

Creature came to life from a seed commission to make an interactive projection event based around the flora and fauna of the Bundanon Trust. Children in particular were enthralled by the work we made and I thought- "right- this is a kids show in the making." Margie Breen the dramatic consultant on Creature then had the bright idea that the work could be based around the Australian classic Dot and the Kangaroo.

What struck me about the book was the deep love of the Australian bush that Dot and the Kangaroo engenders in its audience.

Add one of Australia's leading playwrights: John Romeril and Stalker Theatres physical theatre and projection technology skill base and we were well on the way to making Creature!

With Creature there are a number of narrative themes, but for me the heart of the work is about Dot's journey of learning: to care and respect the beautiful creatures of the Australian landscape. This moment has it.

The other moment I continue to love is the line "know too much and you will be farting worse than a wallaby" You can't beat a good fart joke in children's theatre! It brings the house down every time.



## Video-

Highlights (5 min)- <https://vimeo.com/173858357>

Full length- <https://vimeo.com/173858799/626bb2b7fd>

## Images

Credit: Darren Thomas

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